



AVLB crews often complain about loud squeaks when they launch or retrieve their bridge. But they shouldn't. Squeaks are an early warning signal that something needs lube.

Those squeaks come from areas near grease fittings. If you don't lube those areas, bearings soon burn out or seize. If a bearing seizes, something breaks.

So keep your AVLB lubed and get rid of those loud squeaks. Follow LO 5-5420-202-12 to the letter—and then some.

LO lube intervals were set by assuming that an AVLB normally launches its bridge about four times a month.

If you launch your bridges more often, you need to shorten lube intervals. Eyeball the lube points more often with more launches, or if the weather's been rainy, or hot and dusty.

Any time a hinge point badly needs lube, you'll see a rusty color or powdery substance around it. Any squeaking of the bridge during launching or retrieving means the inner and outer center hinge pins need lube.

Before operation is the best time to do the extra check. If you see rust, or the fitting appears dry, lube it. Always wipe off excess lube so it won't collect dirt and sand. After lubing, launch the bridge to evenly distribute the lube—then lube again.

